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JAGAN SMASHES THE TORY LIE

Deposed Premier: Western Democracy Is On Trial

By DR. CHEDDI JAGAN

I WANT to answer in this article some of the charges made against the Government of British Guiana, and points in the British Government's White Paper.

We are accused in the White Paper of hindering the good government of the colony and of fomenting strikes for political ends.

(We had established a trade union by legal action. For four years our union had tried to get recognition, but for years the employers did not meet this union. Since 1949 I had been proposing in the Legislative Council the Bill we introduced. The Bill is uncontroversial. It has been taken out of the American Statute Book of Roosevelt's era. Of course Roosevelt is a "Communist" now.

From 1949 we were asking the sugar employers for recognition. What was left for us to do? In our election manifesto we told the people: when you put us in power we shall introduce legislation to give your trade union power to bargain with the employers. This is the "violence" and the "plot" in British Guiana.

The Governor was opposed to it, all the officials in the cabinet were prepared to vote against it, the State Council was prepared to vote against. We were prepared to ask the Governor to use his constitutional power in case the Upper House delayed the Bill.

The Manpower Citizens' Association has, they say, a large following, and our union a small following only. But is is significant that our union closed down all sugar estates for a strike a few weeks ago.

Another charge: Removal of the ban on entry of West Indian communists. I was banned from entering Trinidad, my friends were banned from British Guiana. When we were coming to London, Trinidad and Barbados told us that we would not be allowed to pass through their airports.

A few months back, Richard Hart, Quintin O'Connor, La Rose, Ferdinand Smith, Joshua and I met in Barbados. Richard Hart was not allowed to pass through Trinidad, and another comrade was told that he would not be allowed to land in Barbados. They said that we met in order to conspire.

When we went to Barbados, Smith was to put a proposition to Grantley Adams.

In the West Indies the Labour Movement was divided officially, some unions joining the International

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JAMAICANS SUPPORT B.G. DESPITE BUSTAMANTE

From D. MITCHELL, Kingston, Jamaica

HEADED by the People's Educational Organisation, the Caribbean Labour Congress, the Jamaica Federation of Trade Unions and the Jamaica Youth Movement, a mass campaign of solidarity with the people of British Guiana against the imperialist plot to overthrow the democratic Government of that colony, is spreading all over the country like wild-fire.

A broad National Committee in defence of the rights of the Guianese people and their democratic organisations was set up here on October 10th, with headquarters at 64, Barry Street.

Already several protest meetings have been held with thousands of working people attending and unanimously passing resolutions demanding the withdrawal of the British troops and warships from Guiana and the immediate return of the people's hard-won constitution to them.

The People's Educational Organisation is currently engaged in drafting a petition which will be widely signed and forwarded to the Colonial Office. Other plans include sending a delegation to the British Governor here, Sir Hugh Foot, asking him to convey the Jamaican people's indignation to the Colonial Office in London.

In an after-dinner speech at a function held here recently, the Hon. William Alexander Bustamante, Chief Minister in the local Government, and top "boss" of the Union named after him (Bustamante Industrial Trade Union) apparently dizzy with the lot of champagne he consumed expressed full support for the fascist actions of the imperialist forces in B.G. The British puppet "Chief" Minister was quoted in the "Daily Gleaner" as saying the people of British Guiana did not want self-Government. They wanted to establish a Communist State (parroting the Colonial Office).

This was soon to be followed by the "morally re-armed" Frank Hill in his weekly little rag called "The Masses". Mr. Hill, who while being an officer of the Trade Union Congress was successfully prosecuted for breach of the Minimum Wage Law, said: Jagan was playing with fire and that the P.P.P. had given away the People's Constitution. His brother Ken has not yet made a pronouncement, although he has been asked to serve on the Defence Committee.

Despite the reactionary pronouncement of these would-be leaders, however, the progressive forces are holding huge protest meetings and calling upon the working people to stand firm with the Guianese people in their struggles against fascism and for democracy to be restored

★ *EDITORIAL* ★

This Gunboat Democracy

BRITAIN'S repressive arm has been used to dismiss the Guianese people's legally elected Government, suspend the Constitution granted only six months previously, and set up a one-man dictatorship carrying out arbitrary arrests of the people's leaders, searching their homes, confiscating their literature and prohibiting strikes in certain industries.

All this be it noted has been done allegedly in the name of law and order, of good government, and to prevent the Constitution from being 'destroyed' by the People's Progressive Party.

In the name of democracy the few democratic rights of the people have been taken away. The right to vote has been overrun, for that is the essence of the dismissal of the ministers and prorogation of the Assembly.

The charges laid against the P.P.P. are so vague and weak that even Mr. James Griffiths, former Colonial Secretary, in the House of Commons debate was able to say that Lyttelton seemed to be 'scraping the barrel'. Another M.P., Mr. Harold Davies, wrote "The British Parliament after being presented with a White Paper full of half-truths, generalisations with no real evidence, and a plethora of turgid deductions debated away the **freedom of choice** of a Colonial people".

In fact, the charges are merely the expressions of the prejudices and dislikes of the Tory Government and local big business interests of Guiana.

So they step in and put an end to it under cover of ominous charges and play upon the overused expression 'Communist dominated'. Charges are made of attempting to subvert the Constitution and set up a 'totalitarian' Communist state, fomenting racial hatred and strikes, undermining the economy and loyalty of the police, etc.

When one examines these charges however as contained in the White Paper and in Lyttelton's 'more detailed' explanations in the Commons debate, they are found to be woefully lacking in specific details of times, places, persons and acts.

The colonial officials and press were trying to discredit the P.P.P. after the elections by telling the people that the Party now had complete power to carry out its programme and if it did not do so then the blame would have been laid squarely on the Party. All the while the Governor and officials were sabotaging their efforts to carry out this programme.

The intention of the constitution makers was to create the illusion that the Governor would withdraw from everyday political life and allow the local people to run their affairs. But this could only be done on the assumption that men like Bustamante of Jamaica and Gomes of Trinidad could be found in British Guiana to 'work' the Constitution the way Big Business wanted it.

When it was found that this subtle policy was in danger of exposure to the people by the constant sabotage of the efforts of their elected representatives, the Tory government stepped in with troops and warships, and as an afterthought brought out the crude and hoary 'justifications' for its actions taken on behalf of the sugar producers and other British, U.S. and Canadian moneyed interests.

It seems obvious that there was some form of American pressure behind the move, and when Lyttelton, at the Tory Party conference, at Margate, gave an assurance to their "friends" that Britain would never tolerate a 'Communist State' in the British Commonwealth, it is clear who these "friends" are.

The role of the Labour Party and T.U.C. leadership has been shameful. For when local trade union branches, trades councils and Labour Party ward branches were so eager to take up strongly the defence of democracy in Guiana, the Labour leaders in the commons debate came out agreeing with the Tories in all respects but the method used in suspending the Constitution. They thought it should have been done more 'subtly'.

It is significant, however, that the 'Left' M.P.s were not recognised by the Speaker in the debate. But despite the 'wet-blanket' treatment of Griffiths and Attlee and the T.U.C. right-wingers, the feeling nevertheless remains strong among the rank and file in the British Labour Movement.

In one blow the British rulers have torn aside the smoke-screen of promises and assurances of step-by-step progress to independence. They have shown that they will only allow 'advances' if the local people in the government are of the type prepared to carry out the wishes of the big business tycoons.

The aim is to 'withdraw' the Governor from politics, and allow the safe yes-men to carry out the imperialist policy. But as we have seen in Guiana, if the people elect an honest Government that tries to implement its programme of working people's rights, then all pretences of constitutional advance to self-government are dropped and we see exposed the naked policy of imperialism that seeks to hang on to the backs of the colonial people.

The British imperialist government intends British Guiana to serve as a warning to all the other territories in the Empire—witness Nkrumah's action in suspending two trade union Ministers just a few days afterwards—and particularly to places like Trinidad and Jamaica where strong new movements like that of the P.P.P. in B.G. are now developing.

But will these die-hards ever learn? Janet Jagan has written "The present situation has only succeeded in making the picture of imperialism sharper in the minds of the masses who now see more clearly than a hundred lectures could tell what British colonialism means".

The Tory Government hopes that public opinion in Britain will become reconciled with the steps taken, and that after an interim period—during which action might be taken against the P.P.P.—a revised and restricted Constitution would be set up to be 'worked' by well-groomed and loyal representatives of the 'people' (Big Business).

But let all who cherish democracy see to it that the Guianese people have the right to elect their representatives freely and the right to improve their conditions constitutionally.

Let particularly the people and movements of the other territories of the West Indies rally to the defence of their brothers and sisters of Guiana and make their protests known.

Demand the withdrawal of foreign troops from British Guiana, the restoration of the constitutionally elected Government of the people, and the release of their arrested leaders.

Send contributions to the Guiana Defence Fund, 16, Soho Square, London, W.1.

Our First Birthday

THIS is the first anniversary of "**Caribbean News**". Reflected in its pages over the past year were the struggles of the West Indian people for democratic rights and independence, against suppression and injustice.

We have been faithful to our pledge to be a militant champion of our people in their efforts to secure a better life.

That we have stood by our cause can be seen by the bans against this paper in the West Indies by colonial Governors. It is an indication of the fear with which the colonial authorities regard the truth being made known to the people.

Even those who may not agree entirely with everything in this paper must wonder why the Colonial Office seeks to prohibit views other than its own.

This is the totalitarian control which is experienced in the name of maintaining 'democratic institutions'. What is this 'democracy' that can only be maintained by stamping out progressive views and when even this fails, by the use of troops and warships as in the case of British Guiana?

It is a fitting expression of our principles that this first anniversary should find us in our biggest campaign yet in support of the democratic rights of the Guianese people.

Bigger and bigger efforts are needed in this campaign if it is to have any chance of success.

In the past months, "**Caribbean News**" and the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) have been continually engaged in exposing the injustices, the frame-ups and terror against West Indian leaders, the denial of civil liberties, etc.

But now the crime against British Guiana presents an immeasurably greater task to this paper and its supporters—to all West Indians, at home and in Britain. The struggle for independence and democracy will not grow any easier but will require more and more effort.

Let us make sure then that when we celebrate our next anniversary we can look back as we do today with a year behind us of good service to the cause of West Indian freedom, only on a much higher level.

This calls for a bigger circulation, which only our readers can help achieve, by taking extra copies and selling them to their friends.

The paper's Fighting Fund has started quite well, but will need increasing contributions to give the paper the strength it needs.

There are many who have been so incensed by Lyttelton's outrage against Guiana that they feel spurred on to do something about it.

Our best advice to readers who want to help is to join the Carabbean Labour Congress (London Branch), and play their part in the campaign for the defence of Guiana in this organisation which has been in the forefront of the Guiana struggle in Britain. Give strength to the fight by strengthening the membership of the C.L.C. (L.B.).

Membership Form on Back Page.

HOW JAMAICA'S SUGAR WORKERS 'LIVE'

by H. G. SINCLAIR

THE average wage for agricultural workers in Jamaica's sugar industry is 6s. 6d. a day for women and 9s. 6d. a day for men — that is, for Grade 'A' workers. Rates for Grades 'B' and 'C' are still lower.

Industrial workers only get sick leave at half pay, while agricultural workers get no paid sick leave at all.

Forty-five thousand workers are employed during the peak period (crop season, roughly 4½ months), and 15,000 during off-peak season. This figure includes both field and factory workers. There is no alternative employment for the 30,000 out of work during the off-peak season and no unemployment benefit whatsoever. Since these figures were taken, some farms have been mechanised, which reduces the figure of 45,000 employed.

Even during the crop season, work is often short—sometimes only three days' work per week.

In spite of the fact that the British Government has granted 5/- per ton of sugar for social welfare, this money is mainly spent on factory and farm holdings to building comfortable houses for factory managers and staff, while the workers are living in filth and squalor to the extent of a worker and his family of nine or more living in one room, 8 feet x 9 feet, with no sanitation.

These rooms are in barracks, with no piped water, and cooking outside. The water supply is from the canals into which goes all the refuse.

These conditions apply to factory workers. For agricultural workers: during the crop season as many as 15-20 and more are crowded in rooms 8 feet x 10 feet (adult single men).

Reports have been made many times and the Government Officer in charge (local officer) checked on the reports, but was forbidden to take any further steps because of pressure from above.

There is no insurance whatsoever for workers injured in factories, no workmen's compensation. 250 working days are needed before a worker is entitled to two weeks' leave.

Treatment in hospital is free, with workers receiving half-pay during their stay there, but nothing at all after they leave the hospital, even if they are not fit for work.

Medical treatment outside hospitals, even by Company doctors, must be paid for. Many estates employ no doctors at all. There are no safety precautions in the factories, resulting in frequent accidents.

Tate & Lyle employ Government doctors on a part-time basis, and workers are pushed out of hospitals before they are properly cured to save the Company's money.

If workers can afford to go to an independent doctor after an accident, and to employ a good solicitor, they can sue the company for doctor's bills and damages, but are blacklisted by that company and subsequently by the whole industry. The sugar industry has often refused to employ ex-service men returning from England, because of their advanced political ideas.

Two unions are recognised, the B.I.T.U. and the T.U.C. The former has support from the sugar owners, and is regarded as a Company Union. It has the majority. Since the split in the T.U.C. the J.F.T.U. has been formed. Companies collect dues both for B.I.T.U. and T.U.C.

At a recent strike in New Yarmouth Factory—where industrial workers received £9 during the crop season, but only £3 10s. after the season—the workers called on B.I.T.U. to negotiate for higher wages, but the Union did not do anything. When the machines had been dismantled, they called a strike (unofficial) for two weeks, then returned to work pending negotiations. No report so far about the outcome of these negotiations.

Unions are blanket unions for all the workers on the estate, industrial and agricultural.

J.F.T.U. was newly formed after the split within the T.U.C., and is bringing back the principle of workers' control into the movement. Workers joining J.F.T.U. are being intimidated.

Next year there will be a poll in the individual factories of the sugar industry, by secret ballot. The Union winning the majority has sole bargaining rights on that particular estate, but the other unions still have minority rights.

IT IS OUR JOB TO STOP THIS

says D. N. Pritt, Q.C.

THE colonies have been told: "Don't riot; stay inside the Empire, you will get all the advance you need, peacefully." But British Guiana has shown what happens when the colonial people bump up against profits.

It is not a long story. The Constitution was granted only on 1st April this year. It gave British Guiana a chamber of elected representatives, plus a council of nominated members, like the House of Lords. The People's Progressive Party won 18 seats out of 24 in the election, formed the Government and governed well, without disorder.

Extracts from a speech delivered by Mr. Pritt on October 9 at the Holborn Hall, London.

It was not a very left-wing Government, but they were even less to the taste of the sugar barons than the Labour Government was here in Britain in 1945.

They demanded amendments to the Constitution even before the election, they wanted to remove the State Council. Would you not want to remove the House of Lords? They wanted to cut the reserve power of the Governor. They wanted an elected instead of an appointed Speaker. Would you not want all this? Is this Communist?

They wanted the appointed members removed from the House of Assembly (I would want them further away than that), wanted the right to self-determination, as I want it for Gt. Britain. Great fear of a single party Government was voiced. Have we not got it?

They wanted recognition of Trade Unions. Recognition of trade unions for badly sweated, unorganised people is a very fine thing, except for the bosses.

They negotiated a long time, then there was a strike, but the Government supported the strikers. You did not know it was the duty of a Government to be against strikes? They thought they should support the people who elected them; is that a communist plot? During the strike there was never any excuse for the police to use violence. Is that wicked? They even tried to get legislation passed quickly!

We should remember the sequence of events before the Constitution was suspended.—A special meeting of the Privy Council was held at Balmoral. We don't know what went on there, we are only the people of a democracy who pay for it. "The Times" said it was very relieved to know that no troops were going; it had heard some story of possible disturbances, but not a word of a communist plot; there **might** be disturbances.

On the following day "The Times" mentioned rumours of revocation of the Constitution. A Colonial Office statement was issued: they claimed to hold evidence of intrigues of Communists and their associates to strangle the welfare (is there any?) of British Guiana and the good administration.

If these intrigues were to continue, an attempt might be made to set up a Communist state. In view of the latest developments the Government was sending our forces "to preserve the peace."

I have never seen armed men going to foreign countries except "to preserve peace"; but somebody always gets killed.

The old cry of communism is used to destroy everything that matters, trade unions, progressive movements. The Communists are not the only people who want improvements. If all the people who want improvement are shot down, there will be no Empire left in three years. The Colonial Office declared: "certain leaders had links with the international communist movement, but nevertheless no attempt had been made to prevent Ministers from taking power.

But these leaders were "strengthening their links with Moscow." Is it that if any Minister of any British country visits a country behind the "Iron Curtain", that territory should then be invaded by troops? Dr. Jagan, they added, had broadcast that he was an admirer of the Soviet Union, China, and the Peoples' Democracies, that Socialism had to come, and that it would evolve into Communism. The Youth League had been affiliated to the World Federation of Democratic Youth. The State Council was worried about the strike.

The P.P.P. was "organised in cells"! And the worst: merchants were reducing their imports, no further capital would be invested, this would lead to unemployment!

Then the troops arrived. Still no disorder, no new allegation against the Jagans, but an appeal by the Jagans to the people to remain firm. "The Times" says if the Government goes on like that, sympathies will be transferred to the P.P.P. People in B.G. remain calm. The P.P.P. appeals: "If your leaders are arrested, other leaders will spring up. If martial law is proclaimed stay at home, be quiet and peaceful. Don't be provoked, the struggle for a better life goes on."

Then, with nothing new to justify it, comes a statement from the Colonial Office: the Constitution has been suspended to prevent Communist subversion of the Government and a dangerous crisis in the economic affairs; a state of emergency has been declared, Ministers dismissed; a Commission is to be sent out.

"The Government", the statement declared, "has shown by their acts and speeches that they want Communism. The British Government is quite satisfied that the elected Government of B.G. is under a communist clique." But they did not know this two days' before, and nothing new happened since then. "They want to turn B.G. into a totalitarian state, subject to Moscow." So totalitarian that it is subordinate to somebody else-

"A dangerous platform for extending Communism in the Western Hemisphere". That means, if workers in the other islands want trade unions, they will get warships.

Here are some other accusations:—

"Provoked stoppage of work". (They supported a justified strike, you see). "Strikes for political purposes only, without regard for the welfare of workers." "Undermining the loyalty of the police." "Attempts to gain their political ends by legislation." "Started a political youth league" "Revising school text books." "Wanting an educational system without the church." (which France had since her revolution).

The statement ended "The Government will hasten to obey the recommendation of the International Bank."

All this arose between Wednesday and Friday, and obviously because the U.S.A. wanted it. "Not willing to allow a Communist state within the Commonwealth," is how the Colonial Office puts it.

It is our job to stop this in Gt. Britain. It is not only the fate of British Guiana. You always try these things out on the little fellow. British Guiana is a small colony. If they can get away with it, they will use the same methods on all other colonies. In the end there will be no British troops left in this country.

In stopping this we need solidarity not only in this country, but with the Indian people, the colonial peoples, and the whole labour movement including the Labour Party.

New, peaceful development of our Commonwealth, enough to eat, enough doctors for everybody. A march to freedom of the Empire and of ourselves. That is what we need.

BILLY'S CORNER

WHEN Mr. Oliver Lyttleton, M.P., Secretary of State for the Colonies, Struck at Guiana with marine and warships, he underestimated the structure and solidarity of the P.P.P. led by Dr. Cheddi Jagan.

Jagan, Burnham, King and colleagues have emerged as strong contenders for the leadership of all colonials suffering under the British iron-rule—this should be a warning to Uncle Sam-

Sugar, the traditional King in the Caribbean, has been jostled in the post war era by Bauxite—a Kankee preserve.

. . . Kaiser Bauxite, Demarara Bauxite, are all disguises for U.S. dollar investment in British colonies, and this pressure irks John Bull. Incidentally there's still plenty of molasses left in the sugar world; last month **STE MADELINE SUGAR** and **CARONI** reported huge profits in Trinidad.

Enter Jagan, supported by 70,000 voters in B.G. who sees our great wealth being shipped to London, New York and Washington. His programme unites Indian, Negro and others in B.G., and he supports West Indian Federation and Self-Government NOW.

To this crime he adds a worse one, solidarity with the peoples of Kenya and Malaya. The result we know today, British armed troops searing the Guianese soil, AND MORE,

> ". . . the anxieties of the United States Government played a not inconsiderable part in Britain's decision to send troops to British Guiana." **"Daily Mail"**, 8.10.53.

Colonial people everywhere look with pride to the West Indies.

There are many more incorruptable "Jagans" throughout the Caribbean. Windbags, Bustamante, Manley, Gomes are fading into decadence and the real struggle for Independence marches on.

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IN THE GUIANA DEBATE

> "We have seen shining examples of how to work a limited constitution. We have seen it in the Gold Coast, in Barbados and elsewhere."—
>
> Rt. Hon. C. R. ATTLEE
>
> (House of Commons, 22.10.53.)

Dr. Ian Fraser reporting on his visit to the Gold Coast at the request of the British Medical Association, states in the British Medical Journal that there is a shortage in all branches of the Medical Service.

At the moment, he reports, there are three surgeons for the population of 4,500,000 people, one gynaecologist, no eye specialist, no ear, nose and throat specialist, no dermatologist, no Tuberculosis specialist, no anaestetist, etc.

Any wonder Oliver Lyttelton could smirk,

> "We (Dr. Nkrumah) have been able to work together, as I think the House knows, for the constitutional advance of their countries, and they have said so publicly on more than one occasion."

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There are traitors in our camp.

"We profoundly regret the loss by the people of British Guiana of their new Constitution, which could and should have opened up a new era for their country."

"We deplore the conduct of the leaders of the People's Progressive Party which provoked and occasioned that loss."—PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY, **JAMAICA.**

London's Colonial dictator has been flooded by protests from Labour M.P.s, Labour Parties, Trades Councils, Trade Union Branches, the League of Coloured Peoples, the National Executive of the Fire Brigades' Union, the South African National Congress, the South African Indian Congress, the Peoples' Political Party (St. Vincent), the West Indian Independence Party (Trinidad), the World Federation of Trade Unions, and the Caribbean Labour Congress among many others.

And here is this disemboweled junta bossed by Manley of Jamaica, speaking of "the betrayal of the cause of the coloured people the world over."

Who betrayed Malaya?
Who betrayed Kenya?

No Party led by Manley in Jamaica or his like has even now the overwhelming support that the P.P.P. leaders had in April, 1953, winning 18 of 24 elected seats at a General Election.

West Indians, take warning! Manley exposed himself when he led the split in Jamaica's People's National Party in March, 1953.

The T.U.C. was disinherited and only the sugar barons gained at the expense of trade union disunity.

Solidarity was imminent for the first time since pre-war 1938, especially in sugar; then Manley struck!

In British Guiana sugar barons and other foreign imperialists closed ranks against the highly respected and overwhelmingly popular P.P.P. The line-up is clear. The true patriots stand out under a People's banner, facing an aggressive enemy, armed with battle cruiser, aircraft carrier and cold steel. The people will win, against heavy odds, and when the reckoning is come, there will be just rewards for our Judases!

* * * *

One night young Doctrove, a son of the aged itinerant barber, fell from the roof of his veranda in a rickety quarter of down town Roseau.

He was taken to the Roseau Hospital to die within 24 hours.

Whose crime?

The X-ray machine at the **old** hospital is still out of order, badly in need of repairs.

No doctor could spare the time from the Club bar on a week-end bridge and whisky party to attend to this young Dominican.

Result on Sunday morning: "Death from a broken neck."

This is the sort of administration that "H.M.S. Superb", "Bigbury Bay" and "Burghead Bay" have come to the Caribbean to conceal and perpetuate.

READ FOR YOURSELF AND JUDGE –

Was This Programme 'Totalitarian'?

The P.P.P. has been accused of being an irresponsible party, of being intent only on creating economic chaos, stirring up labour disturbances and instituting a "totalitarian" state. We publish below representative extracts from the Party's Policy Statement, upon which the charges laid against it can be judged.

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TO-DAY in British Guiana, a new constitution has been introduced. This constitution is so designed that in fact there is no freedom from imperialism either on a political or an economic level. A Party therefore which seeks to be returned to the Legislative Assembly is immediately faced with the task of formulating a policy which can work under these conditions of dependence. Such a policy will be able to cater only for reforms; for patches on the torn and ragged fabric of colonial reality.

These statements of policy . . . are such reforms. They are the reforms which will be attempted by the Party in the next four years, when, of course, the Party is returned as a majority Party.

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LABOUR

The Party believes that Trade Unions which have the confidence of the majority of workers in an industry or service should be recognised to bargain for and on behalf of these workers. It will by Legislation based on the American Labour Relations Act secure the observance of this principle.

At the same time, the Party will insist on Trade Unions being the free and voluntary organisations, as they are known to be in the United Kingdom.

We will work for better conditions and pay for domestic workers. The Party will re-enact the HOLIDAYS WITH PAY LAW so that at least two weeks' annual leave with pay will become a reality for every worker.

The Employment Exchange should not be used for such menial tasks as that of strike breaking. The Party will extend the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance to include industrial diseases.

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TRADE

We feel that we must extricate ourselves from our traditional colonial relationship of buying dear and selling cheap. We do not believe in the Commonwealth preferential Tariff System and strongly advocate a system of free trade. We are strongly opposed to the present system by which we are compelled to sell products to, and purchase our imports from certain countries only. Our Party will work for free trade and exchange of goods on the basis of reciprocal agreements.

We would give such protection as is necessary to encourage and develop our agriculture and local industries

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INDUSTRIALISATION AND TAXATION

In granting "aid" we will give preferential treatment to manufacturing industries as against extractive industries.

Foreign capital for the development of industries in the real interests of the colony will be encouraged.

We will raise and collect more by way of direct taxation from those who are able to pay and reduce the very high incidence of indirect taxation which falls heavily on the poor.

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AGRICULTURE

The Party plans to have:—

A co-ordinated over-all plan for the provision, control and maintenance of all drainage and irrigation works under a single authority in order to provide efficient drainage and irrigation for the more effective utilization of the agricultural lands in the colony.

Security of tenure extending to both building and agricultural lands . . .

Assisting peasants by revision of rent restriction ordinance to defend them against rapacious landlords; better prices for cane farmers.

An agricultural bank with sufficiently large capital to enable it to provide credit to farmers for the acquisition development and maintenance of agricultural holdings.

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COMMUNICATIONS

We shall immediately institute a thorough investigation of the working and administration of the Public Works Department and seek better control of expenditure in that Department. We stand for public ownership of all public utilities. We shall extend the electrical services to rural communities and seek better roads for the villages.

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EDUCATION

We will see that equal educational opportunities are provided for all regardless of race, creed, social origin, income or geographical location.

We will see that better and more schools are built to accommodate our children.

Technical schools will be established in order to train our workers for our industries.

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MEDICINE AND HEALTH

The P.P.P. shall seek to reorganise the medical services in order to ensure adequate medical treatment to the inhabitants of British Guiana irrespective of financial status or geographical location. We will institute a broad campaign for preventive medicine, including portable water supply for country districts.

The existing hospitals must be brought up to modern standards as regards equipment, diet, nursing and medical care.

We shall subsidise and station midwives in the rural areas in order to assist mothers and thereby reduce the infant and mother mortality rates.

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HOUSING

The Party will support: rental-purchase and government aided housing schemes . . . will seek to secure the extension of the Rent Restriction Ordinance to the whole colony to include all premises and building land.

Workers living in houses owned by their employers, e.g., on sugar estates and at Baxuite Companies, must get proper security of tenure.

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SOCIAL SERVICES

Old Age Pension—Legislation to reduce pensionable age to 55. Abolition of the Means Test. Payment of the same pension to Old Age Pensioners in country and town.

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FEDERATION

The P.P.P. is in favour of the principle of Federation as it believes that Federation provides the shortest and surest path to national independence and ultimately to economic stability and social progress of the British Caribbean as a whole.

(The Party, however, rejects the Rance Report.)

The P.P.P. when elected to power will only commit British Guiana to Federation based on self-government after the people have expressed by way of REFERENDUM the desire to enter into the Federation.

JANET JAGAN says—

THE FIGHT GOES ON

THE spirit of the people's movement in British Guiana has not been altered by the harsh and shocking measures meted out by Her Majesty's Government. To the contrary, the people now have a new determination, borne out of the events of the past two weeks, which they never before displayed. Their faces carry a new calm, a new resolve, a sharp realization that British Imperialism is now something more tangible. They now understand, as they never before understood, what the harsh hand of British rule means.

As they stand in line to draw their savings from the banks, they do it with the new spirit of non-co-operation with the military regime. As they boycott the stores of the "big shots" they think with vivid thoughts of the hardships that have been their lot for all these years.

As they see British troops walk their streets, they see to themselves the real picture of the dictator Governor who they have now nicknamed "my wife and I" since His Excellency is always promising that "my wife and I" will visit you, etc

King Sugar, they say, has played his part in all this. We can thank the Sugar Gods for calling in the army and navy to take away our rights, for deposing our beloved leaders.

They look with scorn on the John Carters and Lionel Luckhoos who lost so heavily in the last elections. So you think they would get back again, they say. Like hell you will! We will wait patiently until they have to call new elections. They can wait as long as they want, but we will not change. They can try what they can to break the party, but it will not be broken.

A poor man comes to Party Headquarters. He owns nothing more than the clothes on his body, and a crude push-cart. He is Portugese, not black or East Indian. But he knows oppression, for poverty knows no colour line. "I will work for the Party," he says, "I will do anything you want me to do. Don't let our leaders be endangered by passing out handbills or doing anything that will get them imprisoned. We need them now. I will take the risks. I have nothing to lose."

Another man comes into Party headquarters. He is African. He carries his bag with tools, just off work. "God is with the Party", he says. "They persecuted Christ for the same things you are doing now. Do not be downspirited. We are praying for you. The Party can never die."

A ragged market woman walks in and puts two pennies in the tin for sending our delegates to London. "Are they all right?" she asks. "I heard that they were in trouble." When I assure her that they are well, she sighs a beautiful sigh of relief. All her love for her leaders is expressed in that sigh.

We have reached a new stage in the struggle. A new stage where the going is a little more difficult, where the forces against us will use harsher methods to keep us down. The police have already detained seven of our leaders. Our enemies are hopeful that the end of the People's Movement is now in sight. How wrong they are will be proved by the future years, as our movement gains in strength, from the very oppressive measures of our enemies.

The Tory Allegations — And the Facts

by L. F. BURNHAM

IN THIS article the former Minister of Education of British Guiana comments on some of the charges levelled at the People's Progressive Party in the British Government's White Paper. (The bold paragraphs are extracts from the White Paper.)

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The leaders of the P.P.P. had for some time made clear their preparedness to use force to gain their ends.

On April 27th, the people of British Guiana went to the polls. The ultra-conservatives had expected violence, the police were made to stand by, but under the leadership and on the advice of the P.P.P. the electors went quietly and calmly to exercise their votes. The day was as still as Good Friday and at its end 18 out of 22 P.P.P. candidates had won seats in the new House of Assembly.

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The P.P.P. has a well-developed cell system which enables contacts to be made and instructions issued, and there is reported to be a hard core of some 400-500 Party members . . . who are ready to do violence at the bidding of the leaders . . .

Our party worked unceasingly to educate and unite all sections of our population and its membership increased rapidly. We organised groups and constituency committees to study and discuss local and national problems and to find solutions and make their influence felt on the Central Party Executive. These were described as "Communist cells."

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Ministers made clear their intention to abolish the Public Service Commission . . .

We have been accused of tampering with the impartial Civil Service. The fact is that in British Guiana, with few exceptions, the most senior posts are filled by officials from abroad. As part of our wide appeal during our election campaign we stated that qualified Guianese should be given priority to all oppointments.

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Undermining the loyalty of the Police — They (P.P.P. Ministers) encouraged dissatisfied policemen to take their complaints to party leaders and used the dissidents to spread discontent and disaffection.

The men in the ranks are drawn entirely from the native population and the possibility of their reaching commissioned officer rank is very remote in the majority of cases. The officer class is imported in the main. In addition, the ordinary members of the police force suffered all the social and economic ills common to the rest of our people. Consequently they, as a group, saw in our programme the hope of better homes and better conditions.

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Plan to secularise Church schools and to re-write text-books to give them a political bias.

In British Guiana, over 90 per cent. of the elementary schools are controlled by Christian denominations, but are maintained and the teachers paid out of Government funds. Promotion for most teachers lies through their religious or denominational affiliations rather than professional ability. Those drawn from our Hindu and Muslim population — 40 per cent. of the whole — face a cul-de-sac.

The whole system is unsatisfactory and its abolition was recommended in 1941 by Mr. Hammond, the Education Adviser to the Comptroller of Colonial Development and Welfare in the West Indies. In accepting this recommendation, which has been supported on several occasions by the British Guiana Teachers' Association, we were prepared to provide the safeguard of allowing all religious denominations the right of access to schools at stated periods to give religious instruction to children of their respective persuasions. This reform earned us the accusation of seeking to create an "atheist Communist generation."

Much of our education is unrealistic in content and approach. For one thing, as was admitted in a **Report of Investigation into the Public Service** (1953), it is academic and formal, with the technical and practical aspects largely ignored.

Furthermore, children are taught little if anything about the history of their country and of the struggles and achievements of their forbears. British patriotic songs like "Rule Britannia" are their regular fare, and a love for and pride in their country is not encouraged, if not actually discouraged.

To remedy some of these weaknesses, the curricula were to be revised, some of the text-books re-written, and anthologies of Guianese poetry and literature prepared. Our coming generations were to be fitted to play their role and to know more of British Guiana, while being taught to appreciate the achievements and culture of other peoples.

* * * *

Reforms like these we planned and initiated. We sought to honour our election promises—universal adult suffrage for Local Government councils, utilisation of idle land, opening of all posts to local persons, secularisation and reorganisation of education, which are taken for granted and have been achieved in all parts of the world.

If these had been carried through we would have laid the basis for a virile nation, but these our opponents and high government officials branded Communist and totalitarian. And on October 8th, 1953, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers landed at Georgetown, a state of emergency was declared by the Governor, Sir Alfred Savage, the elected Ministers were dismissed, and the Constitution suspended.

WHAT THE P.P.P. DID

THE People's Progressive Party introduced the following Bills:—

1. Amendment to "Rice Farmers (Security of Tenure) Bill".
2. Labour Relations Bill.
3. Bill repealing "Undesirable Publications Ordinance".
4. Bill to extend water facilities to suburbs of Georgetown.
5. Bill to limit interest charged by money lenders
6. Bill to extend food production loans including the fishing industry.

* *

The following Bills were in draft:—

1. Universal Adult Suffrage for local elections.
2. Bill to enact land law, setting up land authority.
3. Re-imposition of three sugar taxes (sugar duty, excise and acreage) abolished in January, 1953.

ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS FROM PEOPLE'S EDUCATIONAL ORGANISATION, JAMAICA

WE TAKE great pleasure in sending you greetings on the First Anniversary of your progressive journal.

The progressive forces in Jamaica, as well as in the entire Caribbean have been heartened and strengthened by the contributions made by your enlightened paper—indeed **"Caribbean News"** for the past year has become an invaluable weapon in the arsenal of our peoples.

March forward with us. for it is with the support of such assets as your paper that we will gain the freedom and peace for which we struggle.

Talking Points on British Guiana

ON THE northern coast of South America, British Guiana is about the same size as England, Wales, and Scotland — 83,000 square miles. Its neighbours are Venezuela on the left, Dutch Guiana on the right and Brazil on the South. Its population, however, is only 437,000—one-hundredth the population of Britain.

Most of the people live along a ten-mile deep strip along the coast, which is beneath sea-level, and along the 270 miles of this coastal belt runs a sea-wall to keep out the sea at high tide.

Here are to be found the sugar estates and rice fields. The 21 sugar estates and 14 sugar factories employ 30,000 workers, seasonally. During the non-working months many have to eke out a livelihood on their small plots.

PRODUCTS

The chief product of Guiana is sugar, closely rivalled by bauxite from which aluminium is made. Rice, gold and diamonds, timber, coconuts, rum, ground provisions are also produced.

Sugar production is in the hands of Booker Bros., McConnell and Co., Ltd., the Demerara Company, and Davson and Co. In 1951 they produced 216,236 tons of sugar compared with 880 small peasant producers who accounted for only 1,070 tons.

Booker Bros. increased their net profit from £207,000 in 1948 to £613,000 in 1951.

The Demerara Company's 1952 trading profit was £456,954, and net profit £182,498.

Bauxite is controlled by the Demerara Bauxite Co., a subsidiary of the Aluminium Company of Canada, which is connected with Mellon interests in the U.S. Operating through 47 subsidiaries in 20 countries this Company had a turnover of £333 million in 1952, and made gross profits of $109 million (net $22 million). Production in 1952 was 2,000,000 tons—all shipped to Canada where it is converted into aluminium.

LAND DISTRIBUTION

Average size of sugar estates is 7,000 acres, while the average size of peasant holdings is 2.48 acres, and 25 per cent. of these peasants have less than one acre of land. The big sugar companies control directly 170,000 acres of land, only half of which is cultivated, the rest being left idle and untended.

WAGES

Weekly earnings of adult male field workers on the estates average from £1 7s. to £2 0s. 6d. Women doing the same work were getting 16s. to 18s. Young people earned 15s. 8d. (boys) and 12s. 1d. (girls).

PRICES

Most items of food and clothing, which are imported, cost about the same or in some cases even more than in Britain. Official cost of living index rose from 100 in 1938 to 261 in 1951.

HOUSING

A Government survey of houses in Georgetown, the capital, found that "of 7,994 houses surveyed . . . only 382 were structurally sound" (Col. No. 281-4 H.M.S.O). Half the families on the estates live in "ranges" — barrack-like structures, one family to a room.

HEALTH

There is one doctor for every 5,000 people and one dentist for 10,000 people. Infantile mortality in 1951 was 77 per thousand, compared with 32 per thousand in Britain. The incidence of tuberculosis was 90 per thousand.

EDUCATION

Twenty-one per cent. of the population over 10 years are illiterate.

It is estimated that about 13,000 children of school age do not attend school. (Ten Year Planning Report of 1948).

SOCIAL SECURITY

There are no health or unemployment insurance schemes. Old age pensions are granted to those over 65 years, after passing a Means Test. The pension paid is 18s. 9d. PER MONTH in Georgetown, and 12s. 6d. in the countryside.

P.N.P. SELLS OUT

by Rolly Simms

THE weakness of Lyttelton's defence in the House of Commons on British Guiana is evident from the fact that statements made by Grantley Adams of Barbados, and Manley and Bustamante of Jamaica, were used to open the debate and to "prove" how popular in the West Indies the suspension of the B.G. Constitution was.

Grantley Adams has acquired in recent years the reputation of being prime spokesman for American capitalism in the West Indies. The reasons for Manley and Bustamante joining hands and sinking their political differences and assisting the British Tories in attacking the P.P.P. might not be so evident to some people.

The first Bill introduced by the P.P.P. after their April election victory was one which removed restrictions on West Indians travelling to British Guiana. The first Order proclaimed by the Governor after the withdrawal of the Constitution re-imposed the old bans and prohibitions on West Indians and others entering B.G.

Manley and Bustamente have no words of censure for Lyttelton and the Tories; they are reserved for Jagan and the P.P.P. This question of immigration into B.G. has been made into one of the prime accusations against the P.P.P. Before the April elections, West Indians other than Jamaicans going to B.G. have to deposit a sum not less than $96 (£20) if they were staying any length of time.

If that West Indian happened to be a Jamaican, however, he had to deposit no less than $300 (about £62) as a minimum.

In attempting to remedy this and other discriminations in the immigration laws, and to improve the general conditions of the Guianese people, the P.P.P. are now told by Manley that they have committed 'a reckless and stupid betrayal of those who voted for them."

On the question of who has really betrayed the West Indian people, it is necessary for us to examine the record of Grantley Adams and Manley. Bustamente, of course, has nothing to be examined. His record is well-known to all. The following is reprinted from the Barbados newspaper "The Torch", 1st August, 1953:—

"Roughly for about the last seven years, Mr. Adams has been receiving a salary of approximately $300 (about £62) a month as President General of the B.W.U. That means that by now he has received the colossal sum of $25,200 (£5,250) from the funds of the Barbados Workers' Union.

His Electricity, Telephone and Water Rate Bills have been paid from its funds and, more than that, his Parochial tax bills. Frequently, but secretly, the complaint has been made that this drain on the resources of the Union was excessive.

We neither know, nor care. But how this enormous salary? How many of the delegates present tomorrow knew of it before? Where is the sacrifice he has made?

We state that at no time in his career as a barrister did he ever earn an average salary of $300 per month. But if he wishes to contradict us, we challenge him to produce his Income Tax returns for the fifteen years preceding his assumption of office in the Barbados Workers' Union.

But as if all this were not enough, we pay him $160 (about £33) a month to lead our Government in the House of Assembly. And we throw in an extra $100 (about £20) for the privilege of having him in the House. In addition he has, for the purpose of his travels, an expense account at the Union, in the Treasury, and from overseas organisations."

That, mind you, from a Barbados newspaper. We need only emphasise that this defender of his people earns £115 flat a month doing it

This is the man who dares to decry Jagan for putting "communist ideology before the good of the people'. The ideology which he has put before the welfare of the Barbadian people is plain. It is worth £115 a month.

At the P.N.P. Conference in Kingston last year, when the left-wing was kicked out by Manley, there were so many cases of corruption exposed that disillusion was widespread among all sections of the people. A few of the cases revealed were:—

1. The purchase of an estate near Clearmont by Dr. Lloyd, leading member of the People's National Party, with money put up by various small persons to start a type of communal farm. Bauxite was discovered after the purchase by Lloyd, and he sold the property to Reynolds, an American Bauxite Company, for a fabulous price. He then returned to his partners the money which they had originally put up, and endeavoured to hold on to the profits he had made. He was not quite successful in this but the corruption here is plain.

2. Another leading member of the P.N.P., Sievright, owner of a large bakery, has been for many years the spokesman for the bakery employers. When Ken Hill argued on behalf of the bakery workers for a wage increase, he was vigorously and viciously opposed by Sievright although at that time they were both sitting on the Executive Committee of the P.N.P. It was Ken Hill, however, along with others, who were expelled from the P.N.P.

3. For a long while nationalisation of the City 'bus services was in the programme of the P.N.P., but by "sheer coincidence", when H. O. Davies, a leading P.N.P. member, became a partner in the 'Bus Company, operating in the city, this demand was dropped from the programme of the P.N.P.

Manley has not spoken out against these things and therefore by his silence condones them. The speed with which he rushed to condemn the P.P.P. is significant because even the editors of three daily papers in Georgetown refused to comment on the situation in Guiana up to that time, stating that they would wait until they had been "fully, properly and truthfully appraised of the existing situation in all its aspects and antecedents." ("Times", 9th October, 1953.)

Basing himself on official reports which have in the beginning stated that the "Superb" was coming to Jamaica for exercises, Manley rushes in to condemn another West Indian leader and praise the Tory Party, and by inference attacks the British Labour Party for criticising the Tories over their actions in Guiana.

To see such an abject surrender by one who was at one time held in high esteem throughout the West Indies is very painful, but it shows clearly that whoever adopts an anti-socialist, and anti-left-wing position, without fail is quite easily led into adopting an anti-national, anti-West Indian attitude and even, as in this case, supporting British Toryism which is, at this moment, besides intimidating Guianese, busily engaged in massacering the people of Kenya.

The twisted leadership of Manley, Adams and Bustamente and the brutal actions of the British Tories combine to slander and intimidate the P.P.P. and Guiana.

But long after Manley, Adams, Bustamente and Lyttelton have been forgotten, Jagan and the policies of the P.P.P. will be enshrined in the hearts of Guianese people, leading a decent, healthier and happier life because of the struggles through which they are now passing.

It is up to West Indians to choose between Lyttelton, Manley, Adams and Bustamente — with the miserable exploiting system they represent — and the progressive policies of the P.P.P. in Guiana, the West Indian Independence Party in Trinidad, and the Federation of Trade Unions in Jamaica.

CN Fund Success

WELL DONE, collectors and givers! Collecting cards were issued in the middle of September and since then some people have been very hard at work. In the two weeks that were left of September, £4.6.3d. reached me, a very promising start.

For this month of October the fund has reached a total of £11.7.11d., not including promises from late-comers. Of this amount £6 goes to pay for our office where the editorial work is done, the rest goes to the printer.

Although this is a good start, don't let us slacken our efforts. We want more next month—we are printing more copies for November, 5,000 instead of the previous 2,000, and the pages have been increased to eight. So all you people with collecting cards peacefully sleeping in your pockets—wake up and get them out. People will give if only you try. Ralph Bennett has found so many willing givers that he has to use two cards. One card will not hold all the names. What about YOU?

A special thanks is due to a friend in Longton, Albery Walters, who helped organise a meeting in his town on British Guiana and took a collection of £1 for "Caribbean News".

Send donations to: Anne Simms, 41, Eresby Road, N.W.6.

Britain Hears Guiana's Case

ON THURSDAY, 22nd of last month, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, Prime Minister of British Guiana, and Mr. Forbes Burnham, Minister of Education, launched their attack on Tory warship colonialism, right here in London, at the Holborn Hall, under the auspices of the C.L.C. (L.B.).

It was just a few days since the Colonial Office had revoked the Constitution of their country, landed troops and suspended normal democratic rights.

On Friday, 9th, Mr. Rolly Simms of the Caribbean Labour Congress, Mr. D. N. Pritt, Q.C., who had defended Jomo Kenyatta, and Mr. John Horner, Secretary of the Fire Brigades' Union, had carefully outlined to a huge audience at the Holborn Hall the grim significance of this Tory attack. About 300 people from the meeting then marched down and protested before the Colonial Office.

On Thursday, 22nd, a mammoth crowd of West Indians and British well-wishers heard Dr. Jagan and Mr. Burnham refute point by point all the allegations made in the Government's White Paper. Their candour and sincerity did much to dispel the fog of lies and distortions that the press of this country had created.

Housewives, workers, students, they all rose and cheered tumultuously as the P.P.P. leader ended his speech. But that was not all. A crowd of 2,000, unable to enter the building which was jam-packed, heard him speak again outside.

At the London School of Economics, on the Friday following, it was the same thing; and so, too, at Cambridge University.

Mr. Lyttelton had got more than he bargained for.

Meanwhile, C.L.C. speakers had been touring the country, awakening the British people to the grave misdeed committed in their names and obtaining ever more requests for Dr. Jagan to speak. This campaign launched by the C.L.C. has shown once again that it is always in the forefront of the struggle for West Indian rights.

However, it is not enough for the C.L.C. to earn respect, it needs support. All West Indians must rally together. To-morrow it may be Jamaica or Trinidad. Let the part we play in London here to-day in this B.G. issue show the Tories once and for all that we mean to fight for, and win, political freedom, economic independence, and the right to a decent way of life.

* * * *

'Grave Threat to Liberties'

On Saturday, November 15th, an emergency delegate conference of the National Council of Civil Liberties met in the Beaver Hall, London, to discuss the White Paper on British Guiana and to hear Dr. Jagan's reply to its charges.

After hearing Dr. Jagan, and after a thorough debate, the conference passed the following resolution with only one dissentient.

THIS conference have examined the British Government's White Paper and having heard the reply of Dr. Jagan expresses its profound disapproval of the action of our Government in suspending the Constitution of British Guiana.

It holds that this action, which has resulted in the destruction of all democratic safeguards, and in particular in the introduction of arrests and detentions without charge or trial, has not been justified by the White Paper.

This course was totally unwarranted and contains a grave threat to civil liberties throughout the British Commonwealth and Empire.

This conference requests the Executive Committee of the N.C.C.L. to make known these views to the British Government and to take such other steps to publicise this opinion as it deems fit.

The conference urges all delegates and visitors to protest to their M.P.s and to ask any organisations with which they are associated to take similar protest action.

All present undertake also to use the occasion of Human Rights Day, December 10th, to organise protests in writing and any other way to the Colonial Office.

36 YEARS OF UNHAMPERED DEVELOPMENT

by Chris Le Maitre

THE Soviet Union celebrated its 36th anniversary on Saturday, 7th November, 1953. This day is recognised by workers, and especially by oppressed colonial people throughout the world, as the day on which, 36 years ago, the workers of Russia overthrew the shackles of the old order and ushered in a new form of society where man ceased to be the exploiter of his fellow man.

We express our hearty congratulations to the Soviet nations, and as colonials re rejoice at the achievements of the citizens of the Czarist ex-colonies. How different is their existence today—36 years after that eventful occasion.

We look back at the progress and development of the Soviet Union in the light of, to us its most important decrees—"The Declaration of Rights of the Peoples of Russia". This special edict of the young Soviet government, laid down the law giving the right to "unhampered development and complete equality" to its multi-racial population.

This edict, serving as a bond of friendship has held the Soviet peoples together, strengthening their great country.

Man, in his quest to improve his position in life, grapples with nature bringing himself increasingly near to being equal with nature, and ultimately its master. For man to assume that responsibility free from oppressive ideas he must, indeed, be his "brother's keeper". Thus he must be considered equal to all other men–men whom decadent imperialism kept in serfdom and racial inferiority.

The last war in which, according to Sir Winston Churchill, the Soviet army 'tore the guts" out of the German war machine, showed the world the gigantic strength of a multi-racial community fighting all for one and one for all.

Looking at the ex-colonies of Tsarist Russia, let us see what has happened in formerly one of the most backward in Asia—Uzbekistan.

Before the revolution the industrial production of this great cotton area yielded 269 million roubles per annum. By 1924 it was established as a Union Republic, and by 1928 the first cotton mills were installed. Within 15 years, Uzbekistan was changed from a backward colony to the most flourishing republic of the Soviet East.

As the base of the Soviet textile industry by 1939, it reached an annual production of 150 million metres of fabric. Its industrial output within a few years had jumped to 2,800 million roubles per annum—an increase of approximately 10.5 times!

Before the revolution no general education obtained in Uzbekistan; no form of compulsory education; no polytechnical education. Up to 1917 only 75,000 pupils were catered for in 917 schools.

By 1950, 1,300,000 pupils were catered for in 5,000 schools. Today, the Uzbek nation has its own language, opera house, various educational, cultural and scientific institutions.

The contrast is clear when we see the conditions existing in British Guiana after 150 years of British rule.

Unhesitatingly we salute the heroic Soviet peoples. And as we look at Malaya, Kenya and, yes, British Guiana—where our people's democratically elected representatives have been arbitarilly removed by the strong arms of British imperialism—we remember, too, the words of Mr. Anastas Mikoyan.

Mr. Mikoyan, Soviet Trade Minister said that freeing the arms industry from producing arms to produce household requirements put the "Industrialisation of the Soviet Union and swift development of heavy industry as a material basis for a swift advance in the welfare of our people undreamed of in history."

These Deputies to the Supreme Soviet come from the racial minorities of the great Union. In the U.S.S.R., all races are equal and control their own destinies.

BANS COULD NOT DESTROY US

by Keith Thomas

Go forth among the people proclaiming the truth;
It shall lighten their path from the house of bondage,
And finally remove oppression by the root.

SINCE the formation of the C.L.C. (London Branch), workers organisations in the West Indies have always appreciated the work it does. And they have looked forward to the C.L.C. to publicise their activities.

However, the limitations of doing the job as the situation warrants was seen. And mid-year 1952, the Executive Committee after detailed discussion, decided that a newspaper was the best means of forwarding the work.

The West Indies being mainly small islands dispersed over the Caribbean, suffer the handicap of communication. This handicap relates almost entirely to the various progressive working class organisations. The big business interests that operate against them prefer that they get no knowledge of each other's activities.

In November, 1952, the first issue of **"Caribbean News"**—a monthly newspaper—was produced. And for the first time in the history of the Br. West Indies there was a newspaper devoted to working class news of each territory. Not only local West Indian news was made available, but also international working class news.

All this flow of news has been possible because of our strategic London position for centralisation and distribution, and the efforts of our correspondents, especially those in the West Indies.

Despite the obstacles such as bans in the West Indies and financial difficulties, **"Caribbean News"** has completed the first year. Scanning our issues, one can see why British Imperialism has been trying to destroy us.

The P.P.P. of Br. Guiana has been their target for destruction because it is the organisation of the people. **"Caribbean News"** is also a target because it is the voice of the people. But like the P.P.P. we stand by our word. We refuse to die.

Each West Indian can do his or her part in keeping **"C.N."** afloat by ordering or purchasing a copy each month; or giving what you can to the fighting fund.

The truth about Br. Guiana will reach the West Indies through **"Caribbean News".**

Let us then begin another year with the support of all, and support will not only mean the purchasing of your **"News"**, but enrolling in the Caribbean Labour Congress.

Letter Box

To the Editor, "Caribbean News".

Dear Sir,

What is democracy?

Is it the right of a people to elect their own Government to carry out their wishes, or is it the right of a minority to subjugate the majority?

Today we can see democracy on trial in British Guiana. The majority elected a People's Government; the minority gloated with hypocritical tendencies, hoping that the People's Government would be their instrument. But when they realised this government was a democratic status, this minority then began to create plots of various kinds against this government, until these plots evolved into the demanding of warships and aircraft carriers of the highest order, to suppress the People's Government, and the withdrawal of the Constitution, which is the people's right.

We, the colonial people, have always defended democracy, and we shall continue to do so with all our strength. We are determined that a minority shall not dress democracy in a funeral shroud under the pretences of red plots, or any other foreign names.

—**R. Bennett**

MESSAGE FROM KINGSTON

Jamaican Youth Shocked at Crime Against Guiana

THE progressive Youth of Jamaica have been outraged by the shocking news of the suspension of the constitution of British Guiana.

This action of the British imperialist Government constitutes a major crime against the will of the people of British Guiana, and should stir the utmost indignation of all young people in the Caribbean who believe in freedom, justice and peace.

The sending of troops to intimidate and terrorise the population of British Guiana can only be regarded as another attempt at mass annihilation on colonial peoples. as is the case in Kenya and Malaya.

This most blatant piece of provocation confirms the aggressive aims of that section of the colonial rulers who can only thrive on the exploitation of colonial peoples.

The British Government has thought to justify its armed provocation in the pretence that the military and naval forces are sent to preserve "law and order".

We believe in law and order, we believe that if laws are just order will be maintained. But we also believe that when law becomes the sanctuary and weapon of oppressors, then the struggle for their removal should be hailed by all democratic people who uphold the rights of nations to self-determination.

In the name of young Jamaica. the Jamaica Youth Movement calls upon the youths of the West Indies to intensify their resistance to colonial slavery, and expresses its complete solidarity with the young Patriots of British Guiana in their fight for their hard-won constitution, full national independence and peace.

We demand the immediate withdrawal of the British imperialist troops from the soil of British Guiana.

LONG LIVE THE STRUGGLE OF THE GUIANESE PEOPLE FOR FREEDOM.

LONG LIVE THE PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY AND ITS LEADERS.

JAGAN SMASHES THE TORY LIE— *continued from p.1.*

Confederation of Trade Unionists led by Grantley Adams and Manley, other unions being affiliated to the World Federation of Trade Unionists from its earlier days. We wanted to create unity of the West Indian labour movement, because if there was to be a division simply because of different affiliations, it did not help the labour movement.

Richard Hart said that Smith was prepared to tell the W.F.T.U. that a Caribbean body should be formed and that we were prepared to support it equally with the I.C.F.T.U. We want unity in the labour movement of the West Indies, and support it equally financially. West Indian people have very low wages, the labour movement is financially very insecure.

Mr. Lyttelton has said that we all gathered in Barbados for a Communist plot to destroy the democratic government in the West Indies.

The moment you begin to fight for the oppressed, every obstruction is put in your way. In my own constituency at the last election, tresspass notices were issued. I went to speak to my constituents and was charged before the Court for trespassing. That is the freedom in British Guiana and the West Indies.

So we said, the first thing we will do is to remove bans on all West Indian leaders. That was nothing new, it was part of the election campaign like many other things.

Another charge was that we were "Repealing the Act forbidding undesirable publications."

Who has the Declaration of Human Rights? All countries, yet we have the farce that you may hold opinions, but when you want to put them into practice in the colonies, you cannot do so. The "Undesirable Publications Bill" gave the Governor power to declare any publication undesirable, and gave the Post-Master General the right to open all letters.

The White Paper seeks to build up the accusation of Communism. Since the election a plot has been growing, but all activities were going on long before the election. All the opposition to the P.P.P. from press and pulpit said that they were Communists. Two Sundays before the election a supplement appeared in three newspapers saying the P.P.P. was a Communist Party and so forth. Not only through the press, but also from the pulpits. This charge of Communism is not new, it was an election issue. But we can not understand why it is put across now.

"Right of appointments." Anything the Government wanted was passed through the legislature in the past Government. Boards and committees were packed by us, said the Governor. Why, it was they who did that before. We always made it clear that the P.P.P. was a workers' party. We put workers in committees and see nothing wrong with it.

"Spreading of racial hatred". This is the biggest joke of all. If there is one thing the British Government regrets in British Guiana it is the unity of all races. The old policy of divide and rule has no place there.

Political movements were once led by two organisations, East Indians and Negro. But we were able to bring the races together. We have in our party all races, people who are prepared to fight against vested interests.

"Plot to secularise schools." This was done after the French Revolution, and is an old practice.

The Governor did not tell me that the Ministers neglected their duties. While I was a dentist and a lone voice crying in the wilderness, I never worked so hard as these last few months. Four months we were in office and in possession of all the files; now we are told we neglected our duties.

"Undermining of the loyalty of police." This is the first time that a reactionary government has been afraid of the police in any country. Police are recruited from people who cannot find other jobs. They are displaced workers. We told them we sympathised with their cause.

I had asked before in the House why they had such bad jobs. We were fighting for the policemen and they were in sympathy with the P.P.P. Police in the past had to obey instructions of white officers. I am not talking about racial hatred, but the planter class and the sugar-bosses.

When it comes to strikes or quelling disturbances the police are sent not because of law and order, but to carry out commands of officers who are sympathetic to reaction.

A great deal has been said about a statement of mine torn out of context: That the police were used before to shoot workers. They shot at workers who tried to run away. We don't want police like that. When I speak of "people's police" I mean police that will not act in that way. But my remark was torn out of context.

I don't want to go into the charges in detail because they have no foundation and it is a pity I was not able to speak in the House of Commons to refute them. My colleagues and I want to take this matter to the British people, because we know that the Tory Government does not speak for the British people.

Let me give you some examples from our legislation.

When tenants did not cultivate their land properly, it could be taken away from them. But the old Bill had forgotten the landlord who was not obliged to provide proper drainage and irrigation. I introduced an amendment that if the landlord does not do this he will be given time to do it, then the Government will do it and collect the money from him.

This Bill was passed through the House, but the State Council called it terrorism, and the Bill was rejected.

I wanted to introduce universal adult suffrage for town and village councils which are partly nominated and partly elected on a property basis. That is democracy in British Guiana. In our election manifesto we said: universal adult suffrage in voting for the House. When we brought it in, the Governor said we must consult the people. We said the people had already voted on it and given us victory.

We went to local authorities and told them what we wanted to do; but the opposition voices were heard in all newspapers. Local elections were to be held in November this year. We wanted the Bill to be passed in time for the elections and asked the Governor to use his powers to bring both Houses together in one session

The Attorney General delayed the Bill. They knew that, having won the general elections, with proper election we would sweep the country and win the councils, too.

When the Constitution was written, I was in London. They mentioned my trips to the East; but not that I spoke on Labour platforms. I held press conferences, exposing the Constitution and pointing out its limitations. The State Council would have the power to veto legislation for one year.

The Constitution makers were very clever; these checks were to be used in the last resort. But their time table was upset because we won 18 seats from 24 and controlled the executive council. As we were bent on carrying out the election pledges, it was only a matter of months before the Government and the Upper House were exposed to the people; that is why they have acted as they did. This is not a Communist plot. The P.P.P. is a broad movement, to fight for the oppressed people of British Guiana. They did not sell out.

All so-called leaders in the West Indies have betrayed their movement, but we intend to carry this fight to the finish. The people's movement has been destroyed by force. They tell us that only Communists rule by force, but here is their democracy ruling by force.

Not Communism but western democracy is on trial. I appeal to the British people. I know that you have fought many battles for freedom, and won them. And you will support us in our hour of need.

Democracy for Guiana and all West Indians

Join the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) and make your voice effective in a way that Lyttelton will understand.

★ The C.L.C. stands for Independence for the West Indies and Federation.

★ It actively campaigns for these aims politically.

★ There are also activities to suit all interests — organised by the Social, Cultural, Youth, and Women's Committees.

★ Membership dues are 5/- per year payable either in one sum or in two instalments of 2/6d. each.

Register your indignation at Lyttelton's action against Guiana in a way that can help the campaign . . .

JOIN THE C.L.C. NOW AND STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT

Post to the Secretary, Caribbean Labour Congress (L.B.), 374, Grays Inn Road, N.W.1.

I wish to become a member and enclose subscription of .....s. .....d. (5/- per year payable either in full or two sums of 2/6d.)

NAME .....
(Block Letters, Please.)

ADDRESS .....

.....

Grenada Tenor Wins London Contest

A PACKED Albert Hall audience thunderously applauded Mr. Jerome Redhead (L. Raymond), tenor, winner of the All Nations Cavalcade of Song and Dance vocalist competition, on Sunday, 3rd October, 1953.

Mr. Redhead, a mechanic from Grenada, West Indies, came to England as a member of the West Indies R.A.F. contingent. He has been singing with success and last Sunday's win was his fourth in as many competitions. He hopes to make singing a career.

Mr. Redhead's prize would be a first class ticket for a 7 to 8 day ocean holiday voyage to France and Germany on the liner "Neptunia" of the Greek Line.

THESE FINE BOOKS MAY BE YOURS

A SALES competition has just been started by **"Caribbean News".** A prize will be awarded to the person who sells the largest number of **"Caribbean News"** over a period of three months, starting with this anniversary issue (November).

The figure taken will be the total for three issues.

As a prize, Billy Strachan, the Secretary of the C.L.C. (London Branch) has offered an attractively bound book in three volumes which he brought back from Czechoslovakia.

It is printed in English and is called "ROAD TO LIFE", by Makarenko. It deals with the true and exciting story of the rehabilitation to normal and useful life of a group of delinquents in the early days of the Soviet Union.

A remarkable film has also been made of it.

Well, eager-beavers, are you going to try for it, while at the same time helping **"Caribbean News".**

* * * *

NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS

The Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) has moved its offices to **374, Grays Inn Road, N.W.1.** (Near King's Cross tube station.)

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

New Recordings
BY
PAUL ROBESON
S.A.E. for particulars
from
WORKERS' MUSIC ASSOCIATION
17 Bishopsbridge Road, W.2.

CARIBBEAN LABOUR CONGRESS
(London Branch)
GENERAL MEETING
Holborn Hall
Sunday, 29th November — 2.0-5.30 p.m.
Important Discussion on BRITISH GUIANA.

THIS IS IT!!!
PRE CHRISTMAS SOCIAL
9 Haslemere Road, N.8. (Crouch End)
2d. 'Bus Ride From Archway Underground Station.
West Indian Food and Rum Punch
West Indian Dancing to Calypsoes
Admission: 2/-.

Forthcoming
C.L.C. DANCES

Saturday, 16th January
Saturday, 20th February
Saturday, 3rd April
ALL to be at the
ROYAL HOTEL, Russell Square
With TOP BAND

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